

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
201 12th Street South, Suite 401
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452



APR 02 2019

Beryl Lipton
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 70821
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Acknowledgement - Tracking No. 875982

Dear Ms. Lipton:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt on March 28, 2019 of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 25, 2019 addressed to the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) FOIA email address. Your request was assigned to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) for a separate response. You will receive additional responses from other DOL agency components that have been assigned this request. Your request has been assigned Tracking Number 875982. Please refer to this number in any future correspondence relative to your FOIA request.

You have requested documents related to funding, staffing, and activities of the FOIA office including budget materials, staffing orders/reports/contacts, FOIA requester categories, FOIA fee waivers, and FOIA fee collection.

Due to the unusual circumstances surrounding the records you are seeking, the statutory time limits for processing your request cannot be met. There is a need to search for and collect records from separate offices and consult with another agency or two or more agency components. Based on these unusual circumstances, we estimate that you will receive a response within 60 working days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss narrowing the scope of your request or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact my office at 202-693-9542 or the DOL FOIA Public Liaison, Thomas Hicks, at (202) 693-5427 or hicks.thomas@dol.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone - (202) 741-5570
Toll free - (877) 684-6448
Fax - (202) 741-5769
Email - ogis@nara.gov

Please note that FOIA applies to existing records and does not require agencies to conduct research or generate documents based on that research. The FOIA requires that agencies generally disclose records unless agencies are authorized or required to withhold requested records, either in whole or part due to one or more of the nine established exemptions.

Pursuant to 29 CFR Section 70.19(e) and 70.40, by filing your initial request, you have agreed to pay up to \$25 in satisfaction of certain fees associated with gathering the information you have requested. If we estimate that your fees are likely to exceed \$25 or another amount that you have already consented to pay, we will notify you. Reference 29 CFR Section 70.42(c).

For information about FOIA practices and procedures, please visit our website at www.msha.gov or visit the DOL website at www.dol.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lanesia Washington", written in a cursive style.

Lanesia Washington
MSHA Freedom of Information Act Officer
Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances